



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 1 January 2023

. My Morse Code Adventure (Jim Neff, WJ4M)

When I was first licensed in 1979, the FCC required a code copying test. For novice and technicians, it was 5 words per minute (wpm). For general and advanced, 13 wpm and for amateur extra, 20 wpm. The code requirement kept many would-be hams from even trying. Now there is no code licensing and fewer license levels. Nonetheless, hams are now learning the international Morse code for fun and for the challenge.

The advantage of Morse code is that it almost always gets through the noise where phone doesn't, and it takes much less power to do it. Therefore, Morse, or CW (for continuous wave) is ideal for low power, or QRP operation. For hikers and campers, small QRP radios are portable and can be operated for a long time using lightweight batteries. You can almost fit a ham shack in a sandwich bag. I became interested in QRP operation. Another advantage, the CW mode is legal on most all amateur frequencies, including phone portions of the band.

You don't even require a radio to use Morse code. Prisoners of war communicated by tapping on walls between cells. Famously, prisoner of war Jeremiah Denton, paraded by North Vietnamese captors on TV, confirmed U. S. suspicion of maltreatment of prisoners by blinking "torture" in Morse.

In 1979, I started a novice ham class with the local Mount Vernon (Virginia) Radio Club. I learned the alphabet and passed my 5 wpm test. The best way to build speed was to get on the air and make contacts. As soon as I got the license I was on the air using a used Yaesu FT101EE radio.

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Field Day 2022 Results

The December 2022 issue of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) QST magazine has the results of the June 24-26, 2022 Field Day event



posted. Paul Guido, N5IUT had assembled all of the log and other data needed to submit our results. SARC was one of 153 groups to enter Field Day 2022 as a Class 4A station. Class 4A means up to 4 each simultaneously operated HF transmitters operated on emergency generators.

SARC is about 23 the way down the category reporting 173 contacts at 100 watts of power or less with 21 participating operators for a total of 1,662 points. SARC usually posts a little higher in the 4A category, but we are not competing for number 1, which had 16,650 points this year. As an eating club with a radio problem, our objectives were to safely have fun and get everyone on the air if at all possible. As a result, SARC just reports what we did. QST has an article that covers the statistics like how many participants, etc. if you want to know more about results.

The next meeting, January 12, 2023, will be 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 .

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
1	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		December 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

The San Antonio Radio Club is here for you! During the past one hundred and four years the club has educated and informed generations of Amateur Radio operators.

I have been blessed to be involved with the club for over 30 years and during that time, the club has promoted and encouraged all aspects and modes of Amateur Radio. That support and education continues at events like Fox Hunts, Radio Fiesta, JOTA, and Field Day and with knowledge transfers about antennas, propagation and modes from C4FM to FT8.

Thank you all for coming out and making this a great place to learn, experiment, have fun and provide a service.

Title 47 CFR 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

73, Paul Guido, N5IUT

Bexar Wire

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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

NOTE: There was no December meeting. The November meeting minutes are repeated.

**San Antonio Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
San Antonio Radio Club**

Meeting Agenda

7:00 p. m., November 10, 2022

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm//Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions of members present

Scholarship Committee: Tom O'Brien, AB5XZ – Drawing for prizes held live and was recorded.

1st Prize: ICOM IC-7610 HF/50MHz Transceiver – John Palumbo//KI5KUN

2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-891 HF/50MHz Mobile Transceiver – Billy Sparks//N5TCT

3rd Prize: ICOM IC-2730A VHF/UHF FM Transceiver – Kevin Pennell//KI5VEL

4th Prize: ICOM V86 VHF FM Hand Transceiver – JD Roach//KD5YSY

High School seniors should apply for the club's Robert Rodriguez scholarships, two \$1000.00 renewable scholarships. The scholarships are administered by ARRL. Funding for the scholarships derives from ticket sales for our raffle.

Presentation

Michael Mitchel, ALEM, KG5YJL – Topic: CERT

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no changes, additions, or deletions, minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – No report.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW.

Future topics for presentations at the general membership meetings (Tentative):

Dec: None. Club Christmas Party

Jan: Derek Moyes, K1DMM (formerly KI5RFA)

Feb: Paul Guido, Parks on the Air

Mar: Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF WWV/WWVH modulation/propagation experiences

Apr: Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW Handling Net Traffic

May: Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW Radio Gram

Jun: Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW Passing Radiogram verbally

Jul: Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW How Winlink works

Now that we are a charitable organization, we will need to track closely the educational services provided, since the IRS will be reviewing our status from time to time.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

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- a. Updated membership list
- b. Updated calendar
3. Mail Chimp – Meeting notice, Zoom, Scholarship tickets

Web Site Statistics: Desktop 70%, Tablet 5%, Mobile 25%

Silent Key Committee –Rodney Brown, AA5RB – No donations since last meeting. Will be going to a location tomorrow to pick up donated equipment.

Monthly Activities – Travis Few, N9EOD –
Fox hunt last month. None scheduled for November and December, but will resume in January.

Executive – No report

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Report presented. Motion to approve report. Approved unanimously.

Slate of Candidates identified: Presi-
dent: Paul Guido

Vice President: Lloyd Swartz Secre-
tary: Jack Bannin

Treasurer: Jon April

Director 2023: Rodney Brown

Director 2026: Benny Martinez

Director 2027: Harold Fleischer

Solicited nominees from the membership. None were proffered. Motion to close the nomination passed unanimously.

Slate of candidates was approved without objection by unanimous consent. They will assume responsibility on January 1, 2023.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None

New Business – None

Announcements:

- Tailgate Dec. 3, 2022 at Encino Park Library 8am-2pm. \$5 donation for sellers. Those funds will be donated to the library for children's programs.
- Christmas party: Details available in the calendar at the club's website.
- AARO's Christmas party is 12/14/22 @ La Hacienda de los Barrios, 18747 Redland Rd. SARC members are available.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:18 PM

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Volunteer Examiners at Work



No report as of publishing time.

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My Morse Code Adventure (Continued from page 1)

As a Department of the Army civilian I could sign up for a distance learning service which still included lessons in Morse code on cassette tape, even though the Army had discontinued Morse requirements for their operators. I applied and got a box of cassette tapes in the mail with some printed instructions. Fortunately, the course was not graded.

The old-time Army radio operators encoded messages for security, sending them using Morse in 5-letter groups. So my practice consisted of random 5-letter/number groups at increasing speeds. That taught me not to anticipate the word being sent before it was complete. I'd copy on paper using a pencil, then play the lesson back to check my work.

Someone gave me a Morse code course on a set of LP records. These also used random groups of letters but in sessions of a minute each I think it was, same as the FCC test. Interestingly, they included all the punctuation marks. So I not only learned the period, comma, dash and slash commonly used by hams, but also the colons and semi-colons, quotation marks, etc. Not much use in common ham talk. I used the same copy, review method as with the tapes though the records had the lessons in print. Both were pretty effective ways to learn the code and I progressed steadily.

To use Morse, or CW, on the air you have to send. I interspersed my copy sessions, disk or tape, with sending practice. I had an outboard Heathkit keyer with my Bencher iambic paddles. I practiced "sending" words from the newspaper or from a book to help my "fist." I alternated between the iambic keyer and the straight key. Sorry to say my "fist" has suffered from inactivity.

I passed my 13 wpm test sitting for my general license. I progressed to advanced and then set my sights on amateur extra. By that time I had a job in the Pentagon and joined the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club. The club station was on the 5th floor around the corner from my office. I could work CW for lunch. Several club members were studying for amateur extra and so we started a lunchtime seminar group. Working CW contests increased my copying speed overnight by 5 wpm. I scheduled my tests soon after a contest. It worked.

If you don't use it, you lose it and that is true of Morse code. Letter recognition fails. Since I've been on the air after about a 20-year hiatus, I've made a couple of CW contacts. It is painful for me and the other station. I know the Morse alphabet, but need to start the learning process over again and build up my speed. With no-code licensing, it is not unusual to hear amateur extra call signs sending 5 wpm code. We're all learning. Now what did I do with that old outboard MFJ keyer?

Next time: equipment and CW shorthand.

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Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership; don't forget!



SARC accepts credit card on-line for payment of dues. Remember, the early discount only applies if you pay prior to January 13th

Thanks to the Board of Directors for containing club expenses to allow us to keep membership dues at the same level since 2008.

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Pay online <https://w5sc.org/membership/>



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Page

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

SARC Meeting Dates for 2023

January 12, 2023

February 9, 2023

March 6, 2023

April 13, 2023

May 11, 2023

June 8, 2023

July 13, 2023

August 10, 2023

September 14, 2023

October 12, 2023

November 9, 2023

December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ,
13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216
at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p.
m. for supper

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

JOTA

Club members participated in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA on Saturday October 16, 2022. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allowed scouts to contact stations as far away as England.

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

Radio Fiesta 2023

Watch for news of the next Radio Fiesta. Radio Fiesta 2023 was moved from the pre-vius January time frame to June.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

License Testing

Dates for 2023

License Testing Dates pending for 2023

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Field Day 2023

FD 2022 was great, FD 2023 is coming sooner than you'd think!

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.